

Glossary of BMPs

Bioretention (rain garden)---a bioretention area is a depression planted with water loving or tolerant plants. These plants have long root structures that promote infiltration of runoff that enters the bioretention area. On a residential scale, bioretention is often referred to as rain gardens.

Cistern---a large container (hundreds or thousands of gallons) that collects precipitation off of roofs. The collected water can be used for a variety of purposes. Cisterns are a larger version of rain barrels.

Daylighting a Stream---to remove a pipe that encases a stream and restore the stream channel, banks, and buffer.

Downspout disconnects---gutters may drain to downspouts that are connected to the storm sewer system. Sever that connection by cutting the downspout before it goes below ground and attach a downspout extender to direct precipitation to an area where it will infiltrate.

Green Roof--- a roof of a building that is partially or completely covered with vegetation and a growing medium, planted over a waterproofing membrane. It may also include additional layers such as a root barrier and drainage and irrigation systems.

Infiltration Device---a broad term that encompasses practices whose purpose is to infiltrate precipitation. Examples include tree boxes, which are mini bioretention areas installed beneath trees and green parking lot islands, which are mini bioretention areas installed within vegetated parking lot islands.

No Mow Zones (AKA: Vegetative Filter Strip)---a strip of vegetation along a stream or storm water pond that is not mowed. As thicker vegetation fills in the strip, runoff filtering increases, the edge of the stream or pond becomes more stable, and geese are discouraged from congregating.

Pervious Pavements---are concrete, asphalt, or pavers with void spaces in their structure that allows precipitation to pass through and infiltrate into the ground.

Retrofit Storm water pond (extended wet detention)---altering a storm water pond so runoff stays in it longer. Common changes to the pond include creating a no mow zone around it, planting wetland plants in its shallow areas, and modifying the pond's outlet (riser) so water stays in the pond longer.

Terracing (2-stage ditch design)---a BMP used to add benches (terracing) to steep banked ditches. The benches allow high flows to leave the stream channel. This slows down the water, decreasing bank erosion, and increasing filtering of the water.

Vegetative Swale---a linear depression planted to slow down, filter, and infiltrate runoff.